



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2018

- [Solid waste and drinking water rule updates at Environmental Protection Commission meeting](#)
- [Water Summary Update: Extra precipitation at start of year helps improve drought conditions](#)

Solid waste and drinking water rule updates at Environmental Protection Commission meeting

MEDIA CONTACT: Jerah Sheets at 515-313-8909 or Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov.

WINDSOR HEIGHTS – Updating state rules to reflect changes in state and federal law will be up for the Environmental Protection Commission’s consideration at their business meeting at 10 a.m., March 20, in Windsor Heights.

The meeting at DNR Field Office 5, Suite 200, 7900 Hickman Road, is open to the public. Submit requests to speak to Jerah Sheets at Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-313-8909 prior to meeting.

The DNR will ask commissioners to approve a final rule that will update solid waste rules to match with recent changes to state code. The proposal will eliminate an advisory council which originally worked to establish the state’s Environmental Management Systems program.

In separate action, commissioners will be asked to approve changes in drinking water rules, bringing Iowa’s rules into agreement with federal law. Adopting the rules should provide increased protection against bacteria in public systems that draw drinking water from groundwater, while clarifying rules on lead and copper and requiring systems to notify homeowners of lead test results if the system conducts testing in specific homes.

A change in the asbestos notification fees paid when demolition and renovation projects are conducted is also up for approval. No other changes in air quality fees are proposed.

At 11 a.m., commissioners will consider a referral to the Attorney General of 61 Park, L.L.C., for violations of a wastewater permit in Muscatine.

The complete agenda follows:

Approval of Agenda
Election of Officer – Vice Chair
Approval of the Minutes
Monthly Reports
Public Participation
Director’s Remarks
Final Rule –Chapter 111, Annual Reports of Solid Waste Environmental Management Systems
Contract with the University of Iowa for IDNR SHL TMDL Contract
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund – Fourth Quarter Updates to FY 2018 Intended Use Plans
Final Rules: Public Water Supply, DWSRF, Operator Certification, and Laboratory Certification Rules - Chapters 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 81, 83
Final Rules: Asbestos Notification Fee – Chapter 30
Air Quality: Fee Schedule Revision
Air Quality - Budget Review
Referral to the Attorney General
General Discussion
Items for Next Month’s Meeting

- April 16, 2018 – Educational Tour – Adams County
- April 17, 2018 – EPC Business Meeting – Union County
- May 15, 2018 – EPC Business Meeting – State of Iowa Capitol

The complete [agenda and item briefs](#) are available on the DNR website.

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Joe Riding, Altoona, secretary; Mary Boote, Des Moines; Nancy Couser, Nevada; Howard Hill, Cambridge; Barbara Hovland, Mason City; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf; and Bob Sinclair, Sigourney. Chuck Gipp is the director of the DNR.

Water Summary Update: Extra precipitation at start of year helps improve drought conditions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall, 515-725-8298, Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — The normally dry months of January and February produced more than 2.5 inches of moisture this year, enough to continue improvement in drought conditions across much of the state, according to the latest Water Summary Update from the Iowa DNR.

However, there remains an area of concern in southeast Iowa, where the drought monitor shows about 10 percent of the state in a condition of moderate drought.

Tim Hall, Hydrology Resources Coordinator for the Iowa, DNR indicates that "some parts of southeast Iowa are short more than 20 inches of rainfall over the past two years."

Streamflow has increased to normal over most of Iowa, and shallow groundwater conditions are improving.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate.

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.